

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1059

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Verda "Buddy" Cope, Jr.,
of Robbins.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Verda "Buddy" Cope, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Cope was an exemplary public servant and consummate
professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in
numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Scott County on April 11, 1936, Mr. Cope was the son of Geneva
West and Verda Cope, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Robbins, Buddy Cope served in the U.S. Army
Reserve for six years and as a Tennessee Highway Patrol officer for six years; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirty, Mr. Cope was elected Scott County Judge, now mayor,
a position he held for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cope joined the staff of West-Murley Funeral Home in 1985 and was an
insurance agent for West-Murley and Jones & Son funeral homes for more than thirty years;
and

WHEREAS, Buddy Cope returned to public service in 2004 when he was appointed by
the Scott County Commission to fill a vacancy in the Circuit Court Clerk's office, serving until
September 2006; and

WHEREAS, a Mason for more than fifty years, Mr. Cope had served as chair of the Scott
County Hospital board and a member of the EOA board; he was vice chair of the Mountain
People's Health Counsels board at the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Cope was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church of
Robbins, which he served faithfully for many years as Sunday school superintendent; he was

baptized on June 20, 1948, was ordained as a deacon on April 2, 1967, and served as chairman for eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cope was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Cope enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-six years, Anna Jean Litton Cope, and he was the proud father of Karen Lay, Sabra Cope, Keturah Cope, and Eric Cope; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his step-grandchildren, Dustin Lay and Crystal Lay Hill; his sister, Joyce Bowling; his in-laws, Jimmy and Norina Litton and Donald Gordan Sexton; five great-step-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, special friends, and relatives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cope was preceded in death by his parents; his parents-in-law, George and Velma Blevins Litton; his in-laws, Mary and Osborne Litton Duncan, John and Judy Litton, and June Litton Sexton; his son-in-law Clifford Graham Sexton; and his nephew William Scott Duncan; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Cope leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Verda "Buddy" Cope, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Cope.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.